

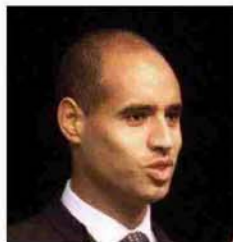
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MILITARY

Saif Qadhafi



The Gaddafi International Foundation for Charity Associations, is headed by Engineer Saif al Islam Muammar al Gaddafi, the elder son of Colonel Gaddafi. The charity has played a significant and beneficial role overseas and has conducted negotiations and ransom payments for the release of numerous western hostages in Africa and in South East Asia, notably in the Philippines and Algeria. But GIFCA has not specified how many deaths there have been in Libyan prisons nor what has been done to ensure that such does not occur again. GIFCA is the agency that has funded the US\$ millions compensation money for the families of the Lockerbie and UTA bombing victims, money which, it was claimed, did not originate from the coffers of the Libyan public or government.

For several years there has been speculation that Gaddafi might be preparing his eldest son, Seif al-Islam, to succeed him as "Guide of the Revolution." The rumours grew after reports Gaddafi had charged his son with some diplomatic missions to Arab countries on his behalf. Seif al-Islam (Sword of Islam), born in 1971, graduated in 1993 from Tripoli's al-Fateh University where he studied urban engineering. He is officially head of the National Consultancy in charge of drawing out plans for state projects. He also chairs the National Anti-drug Association of Libya.

On 19 December 2003 Libya agreed to destroy all of its chemical, nuclear, and biological weapons. The surprise announcement followed nine months of secret talks between Libyan, American, and British officials. Libya agreed to allow for immediate inspections and monitoring, and to eliminate ballistic missiles traveling more than 300 kilometers with a 500 kilogram payload.

Shahram Chubin, director of studies at the Geneva Center for Security Policy, believes Gaddafi is paving the way for a secure succession for his son. "I think that Libya -- and in particular its leadership -- are getting ready for succession. They must have recognized that it makes sense to bring Libya back into the fold of the international community, and to do that they'd have to dispense with these [weapons] programs that they've been having for many, many years, which clearly serve no rational

References

- [Libya: Analysts Say Decision On WMD Inspired By Economics, Worries About Succession](#) RFE/RL 22 Dec 2003

Links

- [The New Gadhafi 60 Minutes II -- March 17, 2004](#)
- [Gaddafi International Foundation for Charity Associations](#)
- [The Desert is Not Silent](#)
- [Libya Purchased Nuclear Weapons Plans From Pakistan, Qadhafi's Son Says NTI](#) Global Security Newswire January 5, 2004
- [Al-Qadhafi son: Israel is not a threat](#) By Ahmed Sheikh Aljazeera.Net 09 January 2004



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purpose. And I think it's a recognition by Gadhafi that he wants to let his son succeed him and to leave Libya in a slightly better position if he gets rid of these useless weapons, which have created unnecessary distrust and suspicion on the part of its neighbors and, of course, the international community as a whole, including Britain and the United States," Chubin said. [[SOURCE](#)]

State media took over the quasi-independent al-Libiya satellite television channel on 24 April 2009 in the middle of an interview program featuring Revolutionary Committee (RevComm) member Mustafa Zaidi. The state-run al-Jamahiriyah channel immediately began to simulcast its programming on al-Libiya's signal. Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi, son of Muammar al-Qadhafi, chairs the al-Ghad Media Group which includes al-Libiya TV as well as two daily newspapers and a second satellite TV channel aimed at a young adult demographic. Al-Ghad newspapers covered al-Mishri's arrest and announced that al-Libiya would relocate overseas with the help of an unnamed investor. Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi launched al-Libiya in 2007 as part of his al-Ghad Media Group venture. While the group's assets feature more diverse programming and news coverage than the circumspect state-run outlets, they are rarely openly critical of the regime and adhere to the "red lines" delineated by Saif al-Islam. Al-Ghad retains one other satellite channel, al-Shababiya, and two daily newspapers, Oea (oealibiya.com), and Quryna (quryna.com). Oea ran an interview with Ain Qurb host Hala al-Misrati on 29 April 2009 describing her interrupted interview with state officials. Al-Misrati downplayed the interruption of her program, saying the individuals who questioned her were not security officers and characterizing their questions as benign. She blamed differences of opinion between her guest, RevComm member Zaidi, and other RevComm members for the crisis and criticized the strictures placed on journalists in Libya by reactionary regime figures.

The reasons for the government's aggressive move against al-Libiya are unclear. One theory is that program content provoked the ire of Leader Muammar al-Qadhafi (by being too critical of his regime, and/or by angering Egypt). Another theory is that the Leader wanted to further reduce the power-base of his popular son Saif al-Islam in the lead-up to the 40th anniversary of the coup that brought al-Qadhafi to power. After years as the heir apparent and champion of reform, Saif al-Islam suffered a year of setbacks: government restructuring has been twice postponed; Libya's first constitution in 40 years remains in secret, draft form; his attempts to negotiate an end to the Swiss-Libyan contretemps failed; and an 02 March 2009 government reshuffle seems to have increased the influence of some who have complained about his calls for reform. His brother and chief rival for leadership, National Security Advisor Muattassim al-Qadhafi, on the other hand, recently completed a highly-publicized visit to Washington and appears to be taking on a larger role in Libya's security, intelligence, and foreign policy spheres.

Saif al-Islam has a reputation for making sensational public announcements about new initiatives and then not following through. In February 2009 Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi established a new human rights organization, the Arab Alliance for Democracy, Development and Human Rights, whose mandate would consist of tracking human rights abuses in the Middle East, to include identifying specific individuals who perpetrate abuses and targeting them for sanctions. An initial meeting of NGO representatives from the region took place in Tripoli; Saif al-Islam was elected honorary chair, and the organization is "up and running". The organization has been in touch with Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch about how to be an effective human rights organization, and has invited Human Rights Watch, the National Democratic Institute and the International Republic Institute to visit Libya. Saif al-Islam also announced that he intends to open a democracy research institute in Europe (London and Vienna, two cities he knows well, have been mentioned), which could afford a more removed platform from which to pursue issues still deemed neuralgic by some in Libya.

Reform-minded Libyans were "cautiously hopeful" regarding the 06 October 2009 appointment of Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi as "General Coordinator." While Saif al-Islam is widely seen as a reformer, he faces continued resistance from the Libyan old guard. Some observers believe that the appointment was meant to give the regime a "new lease on life" and counter subtle yet growing voices of opposition, particularly with respect to corruption. Given that Saif al-Islam was out of the country when the appointment was made, the meaning of his new position will only start to become clear when he returned to Tripoli. Some fear that the official role will constrain Saif, who had been relatively free to act and speak out in favor of reform in his nominally "non-governmental" position as Chairman of the Qadhafi Development Foundation.

Saif is widely known to be a reformer within Libya but had often encountered resistance from the old guard Revolutionary Committee (RevComm) leaders when proposing drastic changes to the government structure, such as the drafting of a constitution or calls to scale back RevComm influence on government administration. He will undoubtedly encounter the same resistance in his new role. He has a lot of good ideas, but some believe he has been too outspoken about them in the past. Saif's position would only be effective if empowered with the authority to make decisions and act on them.

Although critics believe him to be too anxious to appease western countries and too glib, many express support for Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi and his proposed political and economic reforms.



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